

NCSL's Redistricting and Elections Task Force

Minutes, August 13, 2013

Attending: 40 people, including legislators, legislative staff, NCSL staff, and other interested parties.

Co-chairs **Senator Ray Holmberg**, **Delegate Jon Cardin** and staff chair **Debra Levine** welcomed the group. NCSL staff Morgan Cullen and Wendy Underhill were introduced, and can be reached at [Morgan Cullen](#) or [Wendy Underhill](#) at 303-364-7700.

The following questions were discussed at tables of 4 to 6 people:

- What would you like to get from the task force, and what expertise can you offer?
- What are the redistricting and elections issues you'd recommend the task force address?
- When would you like the task force to meet, and how would you like meetings to be structured?
- Since travel is hard, what kinds of long distance communication or collaboration work for you?

In reporting out from these small groups, the following major projects were proposed:

- revitalizing NCSL's database of redistricting litigation
- updating NCSL's webpages devoted to redistricting
- beginning work on the "red book" on redistricting, possibly putting it online
- sponsoring a webinar on online voter registration for early November
- developing work on a clearinghouse of elections-related reports

NOTE: volunteer advisors from the task force are welcome on all of these

Suggestions for future topics included:

- continue to work with the U.S. Census Bureau--especially finding out how our members can get on their advisory committees, and how to have input on the ethnicity/race question prior to its adoption.
- continue with updates on redistricting litigation
- provide "Intro to Redistricting" sessions for those who are new to the subject
- continue to share methods and technologies (including software) for redistricting
- more "political science" on redistricting, such as the Stephanopoulos session
- discuss counting prisoners for redistricting purposes
- hear from the U.S. Department of Justice regarding the Voting Rights Act, and share any state-level voting rights initiatives
- address "moving election procedures into the 21st century." This could include no-excuse absentee voting, early voting, and voting by mail/email/Internet, or modifying antiquated laws and prosecution and investigation of election fraud
- explore the cost of elections—who bears the cost and how much do we pay?
- focus on expanded technology for voting registration and election administration
- provide ideas on how states can educate/communicate with voters
- more on campaign finance

NOTE: if you might be able to serve as a presenter on any of these, or if you know someone who might be good, please let Morgan or Wendy know.

